

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 10373 142007Z

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7151

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AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, SOPN, IN

SUBJECT: CONCLUSION OF NON-ALIGNED NEWS POOL CONFERENCE

REF: NEW DELHI 10272, NEW DELHI 10230

1. THE NEW DELHI "MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES ON THE PRESS AGENCIES POOL" CONCLUDED IN PLENARY SESSION JULY 13 WITH THE ADOPTION OF A "CONSTITUTION" FOR THE PROPOSED POOL, CREATION OF A 14-MEMBER COORDINATION COMMITTEE HEADED BY INDIA, ENDORSEMENT OF AN "ACTION PLAN" FOR COOPERATION "IN ALL ASPECTS OF INFORMATION AND MASS MEDIA," RECOMMENDATION TO THE COLOMBO MEETING OF A "POLITICAL DECLARATION OF INFORMATION" (NEW DELHI 10272), AND A CALL FOR A STUDY OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES IN THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES.

2. THE CONSTITUTION, TO BE CONSIDERED AT COLOMBO, OUTLINED ONLY VERY GENERALLY HOW NEWS ITEMS WOULD BE EXCHANGED AMONG MEMBERS, STATING THAT "ALL DISTRIBUTING AGENCIES WILL PROVIDE IN THEIR DAILY TRANSMISSIONS OR NEWSCASTS A MUTUALLY AGREED DURATION OF TIME TO BE DEVOTED TO

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PAGE 02 NEW DE 10373 142007Z

DISTRIBUTION OF NEWS RECEIVED FROM OTHER PARTICIPANTS."

HOWEVER, THE "MODALITIES OF COLLECTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF NEWS AMONG PARTICIPATING AGENCIES WOULD BE WORKED OUT THROUGH MUTUAL AGREEMENT."

3. THE CONSTITUTION ALSO URGED PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES TO "REACH AGREEMENT ON RECIPROCAL REDUCTION OF CABLE RATES, AND ON IMPROVEMENT OF MUTUAL COMMUNICATION FACILITIES." IT PROVIDED: "THE POOL IS FOUNDED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF BEING A SELF-FINANCING ACTIVITY AND EACH PARTICIPATING AGENCY WOULD BEAR THE COST OF ITS OWN PARTICIPATION."

4. IN ADDITION TO INDIA, THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE IS COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES OF INDONESIA, VIETNAM, MURAITIUS, IRAQ, EGYPT, TUNISIA, GHANA, SENEGAL, ZAIRE, YUGOSLAVIA, CUBA, MEXICO AND PERU. MRS. GANDHI'S SPECIAL ENVOY, MOHAMMED YUNUS, CHAIRMAN CONVENED THE COMMITTEE FOR THE FIRST TIME WITHIN MINUTES AFTER CLOSURE OF THE CONFERENCE TO INVITE MEMBERS "TO ENTER IMMEDIATE WORKING ARRANGEMENTS TO EXCHANGE NEWS BETWEEN THEM" (ACCORDING TO A REPORT IN CONGRESS-ORIENTED NATIONAL HERALD TODAY) "AND SPOKE ABOUT SEVERANCE OF THE ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN THE INDIAN NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY AND A POWERFUL WESTERN NEWS AGENCY" (UPI--REPORTED IN NEW DELHI 10230).

5. WE NOTE THAT THE DECLARATION ISSUED JULY 13 AND REPORTED DELHI 10272 ALSO INCLUDES A PARA CALLING FOR FURTHER CO-ORDINATION OF NON-ALIGNED ACTIVITIES IN THE UN AND URGES THAT "THEY SHOULD WORK TOGETHER TO SECURE ASSISTANCE FOR SUCH NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES AS ARE PROPOSING TO ESTABLISH THEIR OWN NEWS AGENCIES OR DEVELOPING AND EXPANDING THEM FURTHER.." WHETHER THIS SUGGESTS AN INTENT TO SEEK UN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND/OR FUNDING FOR FUTURE NON-ALIGNED NEWS COOPERATION IS SOMEWHAT OPAQUE IN THE LANGUAGE BUT CONCEIVABLE.

6. COMMENT: ENDORSEMENT OF THE CONFERENCE PROPOSALS AND ELABORATION OF THE MECHANICS OF THE PROPOSED NEWS POOL HAVE BEEN LEFT TO THE COLOMBO MEETING OR TO VARIOUS STUDY GROUPS AND COMMITTEES. THE "ACTION PLAN" ADOPTED IS IN FACT ESSENTIALLY THE DOCUMENT THAT EMERGED FROM THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 NEW DE 10373 142007Z

TUNIS CONFERENCE LAST MARCH. PERHAPS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT IS A SHIFT IN NON-ALIGNED LEADERSHIP IN THE INFORMATION FIELD FROM YUGOSLAVIA TO INDIA ON THE EVE OF THE COLOMBO CONFERENCE, FOR WHATEVER VALUE THAT MAY HAVE AT THE SUMMIT.

7. DEPARTMENT PLEASE REPEAT TO OTHER POSTS AS APPROPRIATE. CONFERENCE DOCUMENTS HAVE BEEN POUCHED TO SECSTATE AND

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO.  
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